

# Practical Designs for the Home Dressmaker



## LATEST STYLES IN WAISTS AND BLOUSES.



ONE of the marked characteristics of the separate blouses other than the lingerie waists which are now being shown among new importations is the tendency to have them fit over the skirt instead of under it and to finish in some fashion that will suggest their being part of the gown instead of an entirely separate waist. This is managed in various ways, sometimes with a bolero effect, sometimes with an extension of the blouse below the waist line either in an elongated back or side pieces, and sometimes by the girdle which is attached to the blouse and finishes it outside the skirt, hanging in long ends at the sides, back or front. There are still many blouses made to fit under the high Empire skirts when also they seem to be a part of a one piece gown, but the blouse over which the skirt fits and which has distinctly the look of a separate blouse is a thing very much of the past.

Voiles, charmeuse, crêpe meteor and messaline de soie are among the favored materials for separate blouses of an elaborate order. Blouses made entirely of lace and quite plain in design are also considered most desirable. Both heavy and light weight laces are used for these separate blouses, but the Irish crochet blouse is not quite so fashionable as those made of laces which have become less widely popular.

Striped voiles in two tones of the same

color or in contrasting colors are very smart for elaborate blouses to be worn with velvet or cloth costumes. The striped material which matches the costume in one stripe is draped in surplice fashion over a V of lace. These waists are made with high lace collars and elbow sleeves finished with short undersleeves of lace. The kimono sleeve is still fashionable for these waists, and if it is not used the long drooping shoulder effect is kept by the elongation of the yoke in a straight band down the outside of the sleeve or by keeping the shoulder line very broad and setting in the sleeve much below the shoulder line with a perfectly flat seam.

A blouse of altar lace meant for wear with a satin finished cloth gown was made with a waistcoat of mousseline de soie. The waist had little tails of the lace at the back and a black satin girdle and long ends fastened at one side.

High choker collars made of fine lace are now worn with all afternoon costumes, except by women to whom the round or Dutch neck is particularly becoming. Very thin laces of all sorts or nets are used for these collars, the diaphanous laces seeming to be much more becoming than the heavier ones. The collars are boned and fitted perfectly, and in some instances they are much higher in the back than in the front, but the majority of those seen have only a gentle slope up toward the back.

The wide side frill of-pleated linen edged with lace, the frill broader at the top and narrowing toward the lower edge, has had too much popularity to be any longer considered very smart, but side frills different in shape are to be noticed among

the new neckwear. One of the most attractive of these frills is entirely of lace. There is a straight panel of the lace which reaches almost to the waist line, and attached to this is a side frill of the lace, of uniform width throughout. The straight lace panel has very tiny jet buttons set on at intervals at the side where the frill is attached.

For wear with serge morning frocks or with simple lingerie waists there are frills

made entirely of embroidered linen, a straight panel of the linen with a side frill of the same trimmed only with embroidery and not pleated. The pleated frill trimmed with lace is not so new as the plain or gathered one. Valenciennes lace or Cluny is both newer and more fashionable just now for neckwear than the Irish crochet.

For wear with the striped linen frocks which are now being made for the Southern resorts and the advanced summer trade there are collars of most interesting shape made of rather heavy linen or of fine linen or batiste, according to the taste of the person for whom the gown is being made. The design is the same in both the light and heavy linen. The collars are pointed in front and not very deep, coming down to about the point to which an ordinary guimpe extends. In the back the collar is a very deep sailor, reaching almost to the waist line. Some of the smartest of these collars have no lace trimming at all, but are decorated with exquisite hand embroidery. If lace is used it is usually filet, Valenciennes or Cluny. The collars are sometimes edged with lace or small motifs are set in the midst of the embroidery. They are fastened on the shoulder.